



Dear Friend,

The New Year marked the beginning of the 96th Session of the Michigan Legislature. In just one month, I have already observed a new energy in Lansing.

On Wednesday, January 12, all legislators were officially sworn-in and both chambers had their first session. Many of my colleagues brought their families to the Capitol. Seeing the family members served as a reminder, to my colleagues and I, of why we are serving in the legislature and that it is time to reinvent Michigan.

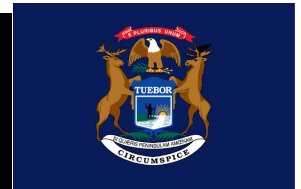
On January 19, Governor Rick Snyder gave his State of the State address. He highlighted some of his priorities including eliminating the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) and expanding economic growth. Governor Snyder also revealed his plan for the state “report card” that will help keep citizens of Michigan apprised of our state’s standings in the areas of economic growth, health and education, government, quality of life and public safety. He is calling this the MIDashboard. You can view the details at www.michigan.gov/midashboard.

Also this month was the Consensus Revenue Estimating Conference held by the Senate Fiscal Agency, the House Fiscal Agency and the Michigan Department of Treasury. The conference informed us of the projected revenue for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010-2011 and for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. These projections are vital since they serve as the basis for how much we can safely spend for each of our budget priorities. Though we are still facing a \$1.8 billion shortfall for the coming year, it was estimated that our state’s revenue will be slightly higher than expected in recent years. It is also estimated that Michigan will see its first net increases in jobs by the end of 2011 and continue the positive trend into 2012. Although it is a minimal increase, the projected revenue is a hopeful sign that our economy is starting to improve.

As I consider the diverse agendas of the Governor, the Senate and the House, it is clear that 2011 is going to be a busy year. Although we have a lot of issues to address, I am confident in saying that everyone’s top priority is helping our businesses get Michigan’s people back to work.

Sincerely,

John Pappageorge



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Senator Pappageorge's Committee Assignments

I am excited to be a member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations again this legislative session. I will be chairing the Department of Transportation and General Government Subcommittees. I will also be the vice-chair of the State Police and Military Affairs Subcommittee and a member of the K-12, School Aid and Education Subcommittee. I know I will face a lot of tough decisions that are necessary to balance our budget, but I feel I can be more beneficial to my constituents if I am directly involved in the Appropriations process.



I am also serving on other policy and statutory committees. I will be the co-chair of the Joint Committee on Administrative rules, vice-chair of Veterans, Military Affairs and Homeland Security and a member of the Finance Committee. I am anticipating there will be efforts to make significant changes in Michigan's tax structure. In the past, issues of tax policy have typically gone through the Finance Committee so I am certain that 2011 will be very eventful. I will be sure to keep you updated on proposed changes.

Senator Pappageorge Introduces Bills in January

Each month every Legislator is allowed to request the drafting of five bills. These bills are then formally introduced when the legislator, or referred to as the sponsor of the bill, feels they are ready to begin the legislative process.

This month, I have introduced the following bills:

- ♦ **Senate Bill 2**– Would modify the transportation funding formula to take into consideration annual vehicle miles traveled.
- ♦ **Senate Bill 3**– Would create an income tax credit for a charitable contribution to an endowment fund.
- ♦ **Senate Bill 4**– Would assure that all budget target numbers

be set by May 30 of each year.

- ♦ **Senate Bill 5**– Creates a new catering permit to allow holders of on-premises liquor licenses to sell and deliver liquor, wine and beer at locations other than their premises.
- ♦ **Senate Joint Resolution A**– Would require that the legislature budget at 96% of revenues estimated at the January Revenue Estimating Conference so as not to overpromise



what might be available.

- ♦ **Senate Joint Resolution B**– Would require all public employees to take a 5% pay cut.

Most of these bills are the direct result of issues from the 13th Senate District. Senate Bill 2, for example, would result in more funding for the roads in Oakland County. Currently, the transportation funding formula does not take into consideration the number of vehicles that travel on a particular road. Obviously, the more traffic on a road, the faster that road will deteriorate. That is something that needs to be taken into consideration when doling out road funding.

Senator Pappageorge's Recent Events and Meetings

(Right) On Thursday, January 6, 2011, I attended a town hall meeting in Birmingham. I enjoyed all the questions and suggestions that my constituents brought forward. It is exciting to see that every day more of my constituents are getting involved with matters of the state. If you were unable to attend the town hall and would like to share a statement or concern, please feel free to contact my office.



(Below) I attended a meeting at the Dreams Unlimited Clubhouse. Also pictured are Evelyn Anderson (shaking hands), Guy Bryant and Debbie Guerra.



(Above) Cristina and I with Governor Rick Snyder and Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley at the Capitol after I was sworn-in to the 96th Session of the Michigan Legislature. I am looking forward to working with the new administration.



January and February Office Hours

Saturday, January 29

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Troy Community Center
3179 Livernois

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Baldwin Public Library
300 W. Merrill St.

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Royal Oak Public Library
222.W. 11 Mile Road

Saturday, February 26

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Troy Community Center
3179 Livernois

Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Baldwin Public Library
300 W. Merrill St.

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Royal Oak Public Library
222.W. 11 Mile Road

Questions? Comments?

If you have any questions or comments regarding information in this newsletter, or wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list, please contact my office at the following information:

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